



Summary of Active Aging related bills May 27, 2013



Prepared by the Legislative Commission on Aging
~ a nonpartisan, public policy office of the CT General Assembly

CoA's Comprehensive Tracking Tool can be found on the CoA's Website: [click here](#)

The following is a summary of bills which are aging-disability related. The bills are listed by Committee in numerical order. CoA used information from several sources including the OLR and the OFA ~ special thanks to our expert volunteer and our non-partisan office counterparts. The yellow highlights reflect bills that the CoA is monitoring especially close. The green highlights reflect bills that have passed.

Aging Committee

SB 79: An Act Concerning a Study of Emergency Power Needs in Housing for Elderly

This bill requires DECD to conduct a study of the provision of emergency backup power at public and private housing for the elderly in the state.

Fiscal Note: As amended, OFA states that if implemented the cost would be \$500,000

Status: File #97, Senate Passed on consent as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule A (LCO 6111) and B (LCO 7529), Awaiting House action, House Calendar #630

SB 519: An Act Concerning Training Nursing Home Staff about Residents' Fear of Retaliation

Current law requires a nursing home administrator to ensure that all nursing home staff receive annual in-service training in an area specific to the residents' needs. The bill requires the training also include, as part of any required training on the nursing home residents' bill of rights, patients' fear of retaliation. The bill also requires the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman create and periodically update a training manual that provides nursing home administrators with guidance on structuring and implementing this new training requirement.

Fiscal note: zero

Status: File #18 Passed in Concurrence as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule A

SB 521: An Act Concerning a Report on the Survey of Accessibility In and To State Buildings

This bill requires the Department of Administrative Services to conduct a survey of state building compliance with the American with Disabilities Act.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: SA 13-6

SB 523: An Act Concerning the Return of a Gift to a person in Need of Long-Term Care Services

This bill seeks to amend a law passed in 2011 by requiring DSS to reduce any penalty period associated with transfer of assets proportionate to the amount returned (credit for partial return of assets), to consider a return of the entire amount of transferred assets to be available only from the date of return of the assets, and to prohibit treatment of transfer and return of assets for purposes other than to qualify for payment of long-term care services as a “trust-like” device.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #19, Senate Passed, Awaiting House action, House Calendar #647

SB 837: An Act Concerning the Department on Aging

This bill implements the recently re-established State Dept. on Aging (SDA) by transferring over the State Unit on Aging from DSS to the SDA, which administers the federal Older Americans Act programs. Many programs and services that serve older adults will remain at DSS including the CT Homecare Program for Elders, Money Follows the Person Program, the Balancing Incentive Program and the Medicare and Medicaid Enrollee Demonstration. These programs and initiative remain at DSS because it is the designated Medicaid agency and due to the fact that many programs that serve older adults serve people of all ages.

Fiscal Note: zero (funding for a Commissioner and an admin. assistant was allocated in FY '13 budget.)

Status: Senate passed as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule A (LCO 5648), House Passed as amended by Senate Schedule A and House Amendment Schedule A (LCO 7273). Disagreeing Action,

SB 883: An Act Concerning a Community Spouse's Allowable Assets

The bill requires DSS to restore the use of the maximum Community Spouse Protected Amount (CSPA) to \$115,920 (2013).

Fiscal Note: difficult to determine (see OFA analysis)

Status: File #63, Senate Calendar #114, 4/30/13 Appropriations Joint Favorable, 5/14/13 Banks Joint Favorable

SB 885: An Act Establishing a Task Force to Evaluate the Utility of Creating a Public Retirement Plan

This bill establishes a Task Force to study the pension problems in the state and examine if the state retirement system could be an administrative agent for a new plan for private sector employees.

Fiscal note: zero

Status: File #261, Senate Calendar #226

SB 886: An Act Concerning Aging in Place

This bill seeks to implement many recommendations of the Aging-In-Place Task Force (SA 12-6). It makes changes in several statutes to help people remain in their own homes & communities as they age.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: Senate Passed on Consent as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule A (LCO 6671) and B (LCO 7499), Awaiting House action, House Calendar #634

SB 937: An Act Concerning Care of Elderly Person in a Home Setting Rather Than a Nursing Home Facility
This bill requires DSS, in consultation DPH to develop a plan to ensure that, starting January 1, 2016, at least 75% of persons age 60 and older receive their long-term services and supports in the community instead of a nursing facility. The bill requires that DSS conduct a study to project.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: Tabled for Senate Calendar

SB 938: An Act Concerning the Purchase of Medicare Supplement Policies by Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries. This bill seeks, to the extent permissible under federal law, to require issuers of Medigap policies to permit Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries to purchase A, B, or C Medigap plans.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #70, Senate Calendar #116

HB 5759: An Act Concerning the Legislative Commissioner's Recommendations for Technical Corrections to the General Statutes Concerning the Standing Committee on Aging

This bill makes technical revisions to the statutes pertaining to Committee on Aging.

Fiscal Note: None

Status: House Passed, Senate Calendar #133

HB 5761: An Act Concerning Notification to Potential and Existing Nursing Home Owners

This bill requires the Department of Public Health to prepare a written application form for changes in nursing home ownership that includes a statement notifying the potential nursing home licensee or owner that he or she may be held criminally liable for abuse or neglect of a resident by a nursing home employee. The bill specifies that the notification statement does not expand or otherwise affect any existing statutory liability of nursing home owners or licensees for the neglect or abuse of residents.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$350

Status: File # 205, House Calendar #148

HB 5762: An Act Concerning a Study of Funding and Support for Home and Community-Based Care for the Elderly and Alzheimer's Patients

This bill requires the Commission on Aging to study 1) private sources of funding available to elderly persons and persons with Alzheimer's disease in need of home or community-based care, 2) the availability of programs funded by the state that provide home or community-based care to elderly persons and persons with Alzheimer's disease in need of home or community-based care, and 3) the cost effectiveness of such programs funded by the state. The CoA shall submit a report with recommendations to Aging Committee.

Fiscal note: zero

Status: File #12, House Calendar #37

HB 5763: An Act Concerning Grievance Committees in Nursing Home Facilities

This bill requires every nursing home and residential care home to establish a grievance policy to ensure that residents' grievances are resolved in a timely manner. It also allows these facilities to establish a grievance committee to 1) review and suggest changes, as necessary, to the policy and 2) resolve residents' grievances in a timely manner. The grievance committee would consist of two employees appointed by the facility's administrator and one resident elected annually by the residents.

Fiscal note: zero

Status: House Calendar, File #206

HB 5765: An Act Expanding Eligibility for the Alzheimer's Disease Respite Care Program

This bill increases, from \$41,000 to \$50,000, the Statewide Respite Care Program's annual income limit and retains the existing asset limit of \$109,000. The program provides respite for caregivers who care for people with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders, regardless of age, who are not enrolled in the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders. By law, the social services commissioner must annually increase the income and asset limits to reflect Social Security cost of living adjustments. The current limits were set in 2009 and have not been adjusted since then. (note: expanding eligibility does not result in more people being served.)

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #11, House Calendar #38

HB 5767: An Act Concerning Synchronization Prescription Refills

This bill is to require individual insurance policies to cover refills of prescription drugs made in accordance with a plan to synchronize refilling multiple prescriptions for certain insured persons. This bill prohibits certain health insurers that provide prescription drug coverage from denying coverage for refilling any drug prescribed to treat a chronic illness if the refill is made in accordance with a plan to synchronize the refilling of multiple prescriptions. The plan must involve the insured, a practitioner, and a pharmacist.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #76, House Passed, Senate calendar #348

HB 6395: An Act Concerning the Expansion of Small House Nursing Home Pilot Program

In 2008, PA 09-91, allowed for the development of one small house nursing home in the state. This bill allows for expansion of the small house nursing home pilot to up to 380 beds. Generally, "Green Houses" or "Small Houses" are "deinstitutionalized" nursing homes. They are self-contained dwellings for 7 to 10 residents requiring nursing home levels of care. They incorporate physical design changes such as private rooms and bathrooms, a residential-style kitchen, a communal dining area, and accessible outdoor space.

Fiscal Note: No cost expected to be incurred until 2018

Status: File #770, House Calendar #528

HB 6396: An Act Concerning Livable Communities

This bill is a companion piece to the aging-in-place bill (SB 886). HB 6396 creates a livable communities initiative to help municipalities/communities prepare for the growing aging population and to reflect rebalancing trends.

Fiscal note: zero

Status: House Passed, Senate Calendar #334

Appropriations Committee

HB 6618: An Act Concerning Expenditures of State Agencies Providing Social Services

This bill seeks to require OPM to review all state social services programs to determine 1) cost and efficacy; 2) relative importance; 3) likelihood of duplication of effort with other programs; and 4) effects of phase-out or elimination.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #772, House Calendar #530

HB 6350: An Act Concerning the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015, and Other Provisions Related to Revenue

Appropriates funds for FY 2014 and FY 2015. See [CoA comprehensive tracking tool](#) for appropriations budget items of interest.

Status: File #767, House Calendar #526

HB 6354: An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning General Government

This bill implements the budget related to general government. See [CoA comprehensive tracking tool](#) for appropriations budget items of interest.

Status: File #778, House Calendar # 537

Banks Committee

SB 979: An Act Concerning Protection of Exempt Funds in Bank Accounts

This bill seeks to conform state law to federal requirements concerning funds that are exempt from execution by expanding the list of exemptions to include federal Railroad Retirement benefits, federal pension payments, and unemployment compensation.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #249, Senate Passed on Consent as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule A (LCO 6875), Awaiting House Action, House Calendar #640

HB 5565: An Act Concerning Reverse Mortgage Transactions

This bill seeks to prohibit creditors who enter into reverse mortgage transactions with a married resident from requiring that the older spouse be the sole individual obligated under the transaction.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #203, House Calendar #146

General Law Committee

HB 5345: An Act Concerning Homemaker-Companion Agencies and Consumer Protection

This bill (as amended) seeks to provide consumer protections in contracts for service with homemaker companion agencies including requirements that: (1) agencies inform a client in writing that a comprehensive background check has been performed on agency employees before such employees are sent to a client's home; (2) contracts contain a conspicuous, boldface notice from such agency that it cannot guarantee the extent to which services will be covered under insurance plans and that a client has a right to cancel at any time in the absence of a stated period of duration and must be clearly so informed by such agencies; (3) contracts between such agencies and clients not be enforceable if they do not comply with all requirements provided in section 20-679 of the general statutes; and (4) a client pay only for services rendered and not be billed for excess costs when such agency provides a higher-skilled individual than is needed by the client.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #700, House passed as amended by House Amendment Schedule A (LCO 6159), Senate passed as amended by House Amendment Schedule A and Senate Amendment Schedule A (LCO 7601), Potential disagreeing action

Housing Committee

HB 6422: An Act Concerning Supportive Housing

This bill seeks to permit DECD to designate a portion of RAP for tenant and project-based supportive housing units.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #216, House Calendar #159

Human Services Committee

SB 851: An Act Protecting the Assets of the Spouse of an Institutionalized Medicaid

This substitute bill requires DSS to allow the community spouse of an institutionalized Medicaid recipient shall receive a minimum Community Spouse Protected Amount of \$33,000 (which is an enhancement of present amount).

Fiscal Note:

Status: File #760, Senate Calendar # 539

SB 852: An Act Concerning Nursing Home Oversight and Community-Based Placements

This bill requires certain facilities (i. e. , nursing homes, rest homes, residential care homes, and intermediate care facilities for intellectually disabled people) to (1) notify DSS and the long-term care ombudsman (LTCO) in writing at least 30 days before submitting a letter of intent to DSS for a certificate of need (CON) application and (2) after providing such notice, allow DSS to evaluate each resident of the facility to determine which ones may be eligible to transition to a community-based setting through the Money Follows the Person program. The bill changes the Nursing Home Financial Advisory Committee membership and requires it to convene by August 1, 2013.

Fiscal Note: None

Status: File # 339, Senate Passed as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule A – LCO 7213, House Calendar# 625, Awaiting House Action

SB 853: An Act Concerning Technical and Other Revisions to the Statutes Concerning the Department of Rehabilitation Services

This bill seeks to update statutory references to include the Department of Rehabilitation Services

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: PA 13-7

SB 1026: An Act Concerning Adequate Provider Network to Ensure Positive Health Outcomes for Low-Income Residents

This bill seeks to require the Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council (MAPOC) to study access to Medicaid services.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #198, Passed in Concurrence

SB 1083: An Act Concerning Medicaid Cost Savings

This bill seeks to establish a task force to identify best practices concerning Medicaid cost savings, to include providers, consumers and other legislative appointees.

Fiscal Note: FY '14 – Less than \$1,000, FY '15 – Zero

Status: File #784, Senate Calendar #551

SB 1086: An Act Concerning Community Long-Term Care

This bill seeks to require DSS to 1) conduct a fiscal analysis of the Affordable Care Act Community First Choice option; and 2) report such analysis to the committees of cognizance no later than January 1, 2014.

Fiscal Note: Potential Savings

Status: File #565, Senate Calendar #403

HB 6367: An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for Human Services Programs Implementer

This bill implements the budget related to human services. See [CoA comprehensive tracking tool](#) for appropriations budget items of interest.

Status: File #779, House Calendar #539

HB 6368: An Act Concerning the Choices Health Insurance Assistance Program

This bill seeks to change oversight of the CHOICES Health insurance assistance program from the Department of Social Services to the Department on Aging.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File # 801, House Passed as Amended by House Amendment Schedule A – LCO 6714, Senate Calendar # 586

HB 5267: An Act Concerning the Regional Delivery of Human Services

This bill changes which state officials are required to ensure that several intra-agency and interagency service regionalization goals are met. The bill also modifies and adds to the list of regional service goals.

Fiscal Note: Dependent on needs of administrative agencies to comply (see OFA analysis for more info)

Status: File #525, House Calendar #335

HB 6370: An Act Expanding Eligibility for Subsidized Assisted Living

This bill seeks to expand eligibility for the ALSA demonstration projects to include participants of the DMHAS mental health waiver who are age 65 and older. The current demonstration project is capped at 300 units, which remains unchanged under the bill.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #29, House passed, Senate Calendar 342

HB 6607: An Act Concerning Nursing Homes

This bill seeks to require DSS, with the State Department on Aging, to 1) conduct a study of nursing facilities to determine whether they are sufficient in number and services to meet future need for long-term care; and 2) report to the Legislature on such findings by July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #552, House Calendar 351

HB 6608: An Act Concerning an Integrated System of Care

This bill seeks to require the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council, in consultation with DSS, DPH, DMHAS and DCF to 1) conduct an assessment of what is required to develop an integrated system of care for young adults age 18-26, including a survey of providers regarding needs and gaps, an inventory of current services, an analysis of the DSS PCMH initiative, and an assessment of whether it could be expanded for this purpose; and 2) report its findings to the Legislature by 7/1/14.

Fiscal note: FY '14 – under \$50,000, FY '15 – Zero

Status: File # 579, House Calendar #365

HB 6609: An Act Concerning Nursing Home Transparency

This bill seeks to 1) require each for-profit CCHH that receives state funding to include in its annual financial reporting a profit and loss statement for any “related party” that receives \$10,000 or more in goods, fees and services; and 2) to define “related party” as family association, common ownership, control or business association.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #377, House Calendar #257

HB 6610: An Act Concerning Federal Medicaid Waivers

This bill requires that DSS 1) conduct a study of the need for Medicaid waivers over the next five years, including such features as a) current waivers and populations served; b) innovative waivers in other states; and c) recommendations on amending the Medicaid State Plan to cover identified current waiver services; and 2) report on its findings by 7/1/14.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #553, House Calendar #346

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

SB 808: An Act Requiring Public Comment for Certain Long-Term Care Policy Rate Increase Requests

This bill seeks to require advance notice and a public hearing when an insurance company requests a rate increase of greater than 10% on a long-term care insurance policy.

Fiscal Note: FY '14:\$57,500, FY '15: \$115,000

Status: File #9, Senate Passed, Awaiting House action, House Calendar #632

SB 858: An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Telemedicine Services

This bill requires certain health insurance policies to cover medical services provided through telemedicine to the same extent that coverage is provided for the services through in-person visits between an insured person and a health care provider.

Fiscal Note: Potential, see OFA analysis

Status: File #32, Senate Passed, Tabled for House Calendar

SB 1027: An Act Concerning Notification of Nonpayment of Premium for Individual Long-Term Care Insurance Policies and Long-Term Care Benefits Under an Annuity Contract

This bill seeks to 1) require insurers that offer long-term care insurance policies to notify policy holders that they have the right to designate third parties to receive notices of cancellation due to non-payment of premiums; 2) require that notices of cancellation be issued at least 30 days prior to cancellation, and that they be sent by registered or certified mail; and 3) permit insurers licensed to offer life and health insurance.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #272, Senate Passed as Amended by Senate Amendment Schedule A – LCO 7047, House Calendar #621

SB 953: An Act Concerning Disclosures for Universal Life Insurance Policies

This bill seeks to require issuers to include a disclosure statement indicating that premiums for universal life insurance policies may increase over time.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #193, Senate Passed, Hose Calendar #386

Judiciary Committee

SB 986: An Act Concerning the Applicability of Probate Court Orders to State Agencies

This bill seeks to require state agencies to honor probate court decrees, rulings and orders.

Fiscal Note: There may be a cost to state agencies that are not complying

Status: File #711, Senate Passed, House Calendar #606

SB 1060: An Act Concerning the Maintenance of Professional Liability Insurance by Nursing Homes, Home Health Care Agencies and Homemaker-Home Health Aide Agencies

This bill seeks to require owners and operators of nursing facilities (excluding residential care homes), home health agencies, and homemaker/home health agencies to maintain professional liability insurance (or the equivalent) of at least \$1 million per person per occurrence, and at least \$3 million in the aggregate.

Fiscal Note: Potential

Status: File #646, Senate Passed, Awaiting House action, House Calendar #643

SB 1140: An Act Concerning the Duties of a Conservator and Other Persons Authorized to Make Decisions Relating to the Care and Disposition of a Deceased Person's Body

This bill seeks to 1) expand the powers of an attorney-in-fact to include execution of a disposition of remains form; 2) permit a conservator of the person or attorney-in-fact to execute a disposition of remains form; 3) indicate that in the absence of an executed disposition of remains form, if a class of the individuals identified in statute includes more than one person, custody and control of an individual's body shall be vested in the majority of members who can be located and are willing, their decision to be made in writing; and 4) to exclude a person who has been charged with specified crimes (murder or first degree manslaughter) from participating in this decision-making if the charges are known to the funeral director and either charges are pending or the person has been found guilty of those crimes.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #684, Senate Passed on Consent, House Calendar #594

HB 6448: An Act Concerning Probate Fees

This bill seeks to 1) establish a fee of \$250 to permit an attorney to appear pro hac vice in probate court; and 2) substitute the terms "fiduciary acquisition value" for "book value" for purpose of calculating probate fees for accounting and define consistent with the probate Practice Book

Fiscal Note: FY '14 - \$6,250, FY '15 - \$12,500

Status: File #664, House Passed, Senate Calendar #612

HB 6641: An Act Concerning the Sexual Assault of a Person who is physically helpless or whose ability to consent is otherwise impaired.

To provide that sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person, whose ability to resist or communicate consent is substantially impaired because of such person's mental or physical condition, constitutes the offense of sexual assault.

Status: PA 13-47

Labor and Public Employees Committee

SB 54: An Act Establishing a Retirement Savings Plan for Low-Income Private Sector Workers

This bill seeks to create a defined benefit retirement savings plan to be held by the state-administered retirement savings trust for low-income private sector workers.

Fiscal Note: FY'14 - \$100,000, FY' 15 - Zero

Status: File #309, Senate Calendar #234

HB 6432: An Act Concerning Homemaker Services and Homemaker Companion Agencies

This bill seeks to 1) designate homemaker-companion agencies, home health registries and homemaker-home health agencies as employers for the purpose of unemployment compensation and wages; and 2) extend immunity from liability for consumers to include their immediate family members, conservators and other legal proxies.

Fiscal Note: Net Revenue Gained

Status: File #364, House Calendar #244

Public Health Committee**SB 115: An Act Concerning Residential Nursing Home Facilities Serving Inmates and Mental Health Patients**

This bill seeks to require a site approval process with local input prior to establishment of residential nursing facilities serving inmates and individuals with behavioral health conditions.

Fiscal Note: Minimal

Status: File # 648, Senate Calendar # 479

SB 896: An Act Concerning a Homeless Person's Bill of Rights

This bill seeks to 1) establish a homeless persons' Bill of Rights, including rights of free movement, equal employment opportunity, receipt of emergency medical care, voting, privacy of personal information and personal property, and equal treatment; and 2) require municipalities to post the Bill of Rights.

Fiscal Note: zero

Status: File #418, Senate Passed as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule A – LCO 7616, Awaiting House action, House Calendar #635

SB 991: An Act Concerning An Advisory Council on Palliative Care

This bill seeks to establish an advisory council on palliative care

Fiscal Note: FY' 14 and '15 - Less than \$1,000 each year

Status: PA 13-55

SB 992: An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Office of Health Care Access Statutes

This bill seeks to expand the requirements for hospital reporting to the Office of Health Care Access to include annual 990 forms as well as community health needs assessment information.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #539, Senate Passed as amended by Senate Schedule A – LCO 6915, House Calendar #607

SB 1066: An Act Concerning Certificate of Need Application Guidelines

This bill seeks to require OHCA in considering applications for certificates of need (CONs) to 1) consider whether the application is consistent with provisions of the Affordable Care Act; and 2) deem approved any application for which no decision has been made in the applicable review period.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #520, Senate Calendar #383

SB 1129: An Act Concerning Health Plan Data

This bill seeks to require the Health Insurance Exchange, not later than 3/14/14 and quarterly thereafter, to submit reports to the committees of cognizance on such data points as stratification by income of individuals who purchase HIX plans, gaps in coverage, and individuals who are not initially but subsequently become eligible for Medicaid.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #567, Passed in Concurrence

HB 5733: An Act Concerning Access to Death Certificates

This bill seeks to permit town registrars to release a limited death certificate (including name, gender, date of death and town) to a person who demonstrates that information is need for determination of a personal or property right.

Fiscal Note: Minimal

Status: File # 585, House Calendar #400

HB 5979: An Act Establishing a Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia

This bill seeks to establish a task force to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address Alzheimer's disease.

Fiscal Note: under \$1000

Status: File #570, House Passed as Amended by House Amendment Schedule A – LCO 6345, Senate Calendar #592

HB 6521: An Act Concerning Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment

To allow the Commissioner of Public Health to establish a pilot program to implement the use of medical orders for life-sustaining treatment.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #530, House Calendar #340

Public Safety and Security Committee**SB 709: An Act Concerning the Silver Alert System and Maintaining the Privacy of a Missing Person's Medical Information**

This bill seeks to protect confidential information from being released incident to a Silver Alert report on a missing older person.

Fiscal Note: Zero

Status: File #385, Senate Calendar #278

Transportation Committee**SB 191: An Act Concerning the Penalty for Causing Harm to a Vulnerable User of a Public Way**

This bill seeks to 1) establish a class of “vulnerable users of a public way” to include various categories of individuals including individuals who use wheelchairs or motorized chairs; and 2) to require any driver who fails to exercise reasonable care and causes the serious physical injury or death of a vulnerable user to attend an operator's re-training course, perform community service and be fined up to \$1,000.

Fiscal Note: FY '14 and '15, Up to \$25,000 each year

Status: File #331, Senate Calendar 265

Veterans' Affairs Committee

SB 70: An Act Restoring Benefits to Veterans Discharged Under “Don’t ask, Don’t Tell”

This bill seeks, on a parallel basis to federal law, to restore state veterans’ benefits to individuals discharged under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

Fiscal Note: Anticipated fiscal note - see OFA analysis

Status: PA 13-48

SB 383: An Act Establishing a Municipal Option to Provide An Additional Property Tax Exemption for One Hundred Percent Disabled Veterans

This bill seeks to provide municipalities with the option of expanding the municipal tax exemption for one hundred per cent disabled veterans

Fiscal Note: Potential revenue gain

Status: File #557, Senate Passed on Consent, House Calendar #596

HB 5388: An Act Requiring Cities and Towns to Designate a Veterans’ Service Contact

This bill requires any municipality that does not (1) have a local veterans' advisory committee or (2) fund a veterans' service officer to designate an employee to be its veterans' service contact person. It specifies the contact person's duties. The bill also requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Veterans' Advocacy and Assistance Unit (DVA VAAU) to conduct an annual training course for such contact persons and allows, but does not require, the contact persons to complete that course.

Fiscal Note: Minimal

Status: PA-13-34